

Introduced by Senator RubioFebruary 14, 2011

An act to add Title 12.5 (commencing with Section 93300) to the Government Code, relating to railroads.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 325, as introduced, Rubio. Central California Railroad Authority. Existing law authorizes the creation of railroad authorities in various parts of the state.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature relative to the creation of the Central California Railroad Authority as an alternative for ensuring continuation of short-line railroad operations in the Counties of Kern, Kings, Tulare, and Fresno.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 12.5 (commencing with Section 93300) is
2 added to the Government Code, to read:

3

4 TITLE 12.5. CENTRAL CALIFORNIA RAILROAD
5 AUTHORITY

6

7 93300. This title shall be known, and may be cited, as the
8 Central California Railroad Authority Act.

9 93301. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

10 (a) It is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this title, to
11 provide an alternative for ensuring continuation of railroad service

1 if the Surface Transportation Board authorizes abandonment or
2 discontinuance of service on, or in the event of bankruptcy of, or
3 sale of, the existing short-line railroad operations in the Counties
4 of Kern, Kings, Tulare, and Fresno.

5 (b) It is further the intent of the Legislature to provide a means
6 to consider and, if justified, to pursue economic development
7 opportunities and projects related to rail service on the affected
8 short lines described in subdivision (a).

9 (c) It is further the intent of the Legislature that enactment of
10 this title not provide a justification for the Surface Transportation
11 Board to grant a petition for abandonment or discontinuance of
12 service on the affected short lines.

13 (d) It is further the intent of the Legislature that the coverage
14 of this title be expanded to include short-line railroad operations
15 in the Counties of Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin
16 if that becomes feasible at a future date.

17 93302. The Legislature finds and declares that creation of the
18 Central California Railroad Authority and the retention of railroad
19 service will provide economic and other related benefits, as
20 follows:

21 (a) Continuation of short-line railroad service in affected
22 counties.

23 (b) The opportunity to explore expanded freight service
24 operations between the Port of Oakland and the affected counties.

25 (c) The reduced reliance on motor vehicles and the benefits that
26 result from use of alternative transportation means.

27 (d) Reduced traffic congestion on and deterioration of State
28 Highway Routes 5 and 99.

29 (e) The provision of convenient and attractive alternative
30 transportation options for shippers in central California and
31 elsewhere.

32 93303. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation
33 that would create the Central California Railroad Authority. It is
34 also the intent of the Legislature that the authority, when created,
35 shall be a local agency for purposes of the Disaster Assistance Act
36 (Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 8680) of Division 1 of
37 Title 2).